

ASPRA PROJECTS REPORT
RR Meeting 6th February, 2019

Poppies & Silent Soldier

Thanks to our volunteers for putting up the British Legion poppies (kindly paid from Stephen Mann's Budget) for the Centenary of the end of WW1: Cllrs. Jeet & Maddie, Nicola & Jonas, & Chris Adams & Barbara from CHASE Residents' Association.

Bob Sleeman, Chris & Kylie from CHASE later took them down very efficiently, & they were cleaned ready for re-use if required.

Bob kindly offered to put them up again this year, but as Members only voted for the 2018 commemoration, this will need to be discussed. As the poppies are plastic, they could go for re-cycling. Chris Adams, Chairman of CHASE RA, suggested that they could be made into wreaths for this year, which I thought was a very good idea as it would have the advantage of variation as well as being less time-consuming.

But, what do Members think?

Thanks to Dave Lee for installing the British Legion "Silent Soldier" silhouette figure by the Noticeboard, kindly sponsored by Cllr Jeet Bains' & his Ward Fund budget. As one figure arrived damaged (the head was bent over) & was later replaced, we actually ended up with two figures but one set of supports. These are now being stored in Dave & Gill's garage.

Fred Law expressed interest in taking them to his son's school, but has not done so yet.

So, any other ideas from Members on their use/re-use? (Probably the damaged figure could still be used if leant against a wall).

Christmas Lights

These seem to have been particularly appreciated - certainly they created a very festive & cheerful atmosphere after the more sombre mood of the poppies.

For the first time we also put up posters by the Noticeboard wishing everyone a happy Christmas, thanking Croydon Council, Skanska & all our sponsors & letting people know that ASPRA had organised the Lights.

Thanks particularly to Lyn & Jenny, the Jumbletrail generously donated £365 towards costs, & thanks to Colin & Steve, we also had more donations from traders & businesses than ever before, including: Harris & Bailey, St Mildred's, Stovell House, Addiscombe Pharmacy, The Fish House, Prawn Brokers, Claret House, Aurum, Arthur's, Vic Gibson & Albion, with a few other pledges still to come.

The latest welcome news is that our Addiscombe East Cllrs. Jeet & Maddie have pledged £1,000 each from their Ward Fund Budgets, so a very big thank you to them.

This Christmas will mark the end of ASPRA's existing 5-year contract with Festive Lighting. We are advised that, if we wish, this can either be extended on a year-by-year basis, or else we can negotiate a new 3 or 5-year contract, whichever is preferred.

Full future costs are not yet known, but it is likely that, depending on the designs, these will increase by about £450 per year. So, approximately £3,000 pa instead of the current £2,500 pa.

For this year, we will not know our choice of patterns until at least March or April.

Noticeboard

The question of the Noticeboard's management was raised at a recent ASPRA Committee Meeting. Currently, there are 4 sets of keys with keyholders: Dave & Gill; Jenny Crook, Sheila & John Newbold & myself. We keep things updated on a fairly "ad hoc" basis & so far this seems to work pretty well. We established some basic rules as to what can go up: e.g. no bigger than A4, no commercial adverts etc.

Fortunately, so far there has only been one incidence of graffiti & this was wiped off fairly easily with a soft cloth.

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As already indicated to the Committee & some Members, I shall have to take more of a back seat for Projects this year, due to my own work commitments & time constraints. However, I am happy to pass on any information to anybody else who is interested in this side of things & who might wish to take over, & also to help tie up any loose ends where necessary.

It has been proposed that the Projects Consultant should now become a fully elected Committee Member, & that is something for the AGM in April to decide.

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Meanwhile, the only outstanding project which has already been approved by Members is the decorative planting scheme for the Addiscombe Village shopping area. This was delayed as it was thought better to wait for the formation of a new Traders' Association for liaison.

However, hanging baskets have now been suggested. This would obviously require the consent of Croydon Council as well as Skanska for use of their lamp-posts again. A professional firm would probably also have to be employed for installation & maintenance. Perhaps this is something that a new Projects person would like to pursue (?).

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Thanks to everyone for all your kind help & support in achieving some happy outcomes, aimed hopefully only for the benefit of our community.

Hilary Chelminski
ASPRA Projects Consultant